

Group II, claims 15-20, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition of an opioid analgesic and a compound that binds to the SS1 and SS2 subunits of a sodium channel in a pharmaceutically suitable carrier.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-14. Applicants also elect the species of the synergistic combination of tetrodotoxin (TTX) and morphine.

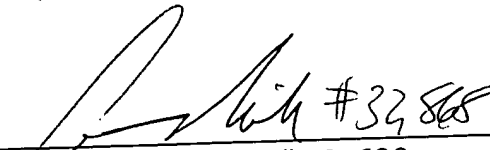
Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that the subject matter of Group I is sufficiently linked to the subject matter of Group II and that the Examiner is not overly burdened to examine all claims in unison. Group I is directed to a method of producing analgesia in a mammal using the composition of Group II. As such, Applicants submit that in order to examine the method of Group I the Examiner will also have to search and examine the composition of Group II. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner rejoin Groups I and II and examine the claims in unison.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kecia Reynolds (Reg. No. 47,021) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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